AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 25-26 with the following paragraph:

In the second modified example of the second embodiment shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, instead of employing the electroconductive adhesive 17 to bond the collectors 20 together, an electroconductive plate 51 having a width wider than that of the collector 20 is interposed between the adjacent collectors 20 while contacting the adjacent collectors and at the same time, both edges of the adjacent collector 20 and both ends of the electroconductive plate 51 projecting therefrom are welded together respectively by fillet welding 52. Furthermore, both ends of the electroconductive plate 51 are inserted into seal slots 53 formed in the inner surfaces of the prismatic battery case 30 and at the same time, sealing materials 18 such as a pitch are filled in the spaces formed in the seal slots, thereby completing the sealing between the cell cases 4. This construction allows the highly reliable connection together with the low resistance between the cells. Note that instead of the sealing operation performed by using the sealing materials 18, the sealing may be secured by baking seal rubbers on both ends of the electroconductive plate 51 and pressing the seal rubbers against the inner wall of the prismatic battery case 30.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 26-27 with the following paragraph:

In the third modified example of the second embodiment shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, instead of employing the electroconductive adhesive 17, connection projections 54 are formed projecting laterally on both sides of the collector 20 and the connection projections 54, which are to be connected to each other, of the adjacent collectors 20 are disposed so as to face each other and then welded together by welding 55 the outer surfaces of the connection projections using electron beam or laser beam. Furthermore, each space between the outer surface of each of the L-flanges 21 of the collector 20 and the inner wall of the prismatic battery case 30 is filled with a sealing material 18 such as a pitch to isolate the cell cases 4 from each other. This construction allows the highly reliable connection in addition to the low resistance between the cells. Note that instead of using the seal material 18, the sealing may be secured by baking seal rubbers on the outer surfaces of the L-flanges 21 of the collector 20 and pressing the seal rubbers against the inner wall of the prismatic battery case 30.